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LETTER DATED 14 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to draw to your attention the texts, in French and in English, of three declarations adopted by the European Community and its member States at the European Council held at Edinburgh on 11 and 12 December 1992: they concern former Yugoslavia, the treatment of Muslim women in former Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.

We should be obliged if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paul NOTERDAEME
Permanent Representative of
Belgium to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean-Bernard MERIMEE
Permanent Representative of
France to the United Nations

(Signed) Sir David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom to the
United Nations

Annex I

[Original: French, English]

Declaration on former Yugoslavia

1. The tragedy in former Yugoslavia constitutes a serious threat to peace and stability in the region. It has created immense and unacceptable human suffering. The European Council fully supports the unstinting efforts of Lord Owen and Mr. Vance, under the international conference on the former Yugoslavia, to promote a cessation of hostilities and negotiations for a peaceful settlement. Despite these efforts, the parties have failed to implement many of the agreements reached at the London Conference. No real will for peace has been demonstrated.

2. The primary responsibility for the conflict, and its brutality, lies with the present leadership of Serbia and of the Bosnian Serbs. The principal victims of actions by all parties have been the Muslim population of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions, the Serb forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina have undertaken a savage campaign of military aggression, ethnic cleansing and the persecution and torture of civilians. The renewed attacks on Sarajevo are clearly part of a systematic campaign to seize territory and cities. Those responsible for all these crimes against humanitarian law by the different sides will be held personally accountable and brought to justice. The Serbian authorities in Belgrade bear an equal responsibility for fomenting the conflict and for failing to use their undoubted influence and resources to restrain it. The European Council calls on the Croation authorities for their part to comply with all United Nations Security Council resolutions and to cooperate in good faith with the peace process, since they too carry a share of the responsibility for attacks on the Muslim population.

3. The European Council reiterates that the international community will not accept the acquisition of territory by force. Nor will it accept the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The European Council strongly supports the efforts of the co-Chairmen to arrive at a constitutional settlement based on the proposals made by Ambassador Ahtisaari and on a mutual recognition of the multi-ethnic character of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The right of existence of the different communities of Bosnia-Herzegovina should be respected and guaranteed.

4. The Serbian nation faces a clear and imminent choice. If there is a radical change of policy and genuine cooperation in the peace process, Serbia will be gradually readmitted to the international community. The European Council supports the efforts of those political forces who are trying to bring Serbia back from the brink. If, on the other hand, the Belgrade regime continues its present policies, the international community will take sterner action, including tightening and extending existing sanctions and preventing Serb participation in any international body, which will totally isolate Serbia for a long time to come. The European Community and its member States

will send observers to the forthcoming elections under the auspices of the CSCE. They will draw the appropriate conclusions if the present authorities do not follow fair and just procedures.

5. The European Council pays tribute to the courage and steadfastness of the forces in UNPROFOR and the airlift, and of the ECMM, UNHCR, ICRC and the other organizations engaged in the dangerous task of relief provision. It endorses the measures to implement the commitments at the Birmingham European Council. It calls upon all parties to allow the safe passage of humanitarian convoys. More action is needed to provide protection to the civilian population through the development of safe areas and by providing refuge in the member States for particularly vulnerable categories of refugees. The Community and its member States will continue to respond generously to the urgent humanitarian requirements. The European Council reaffirms its support for United Nations Security Council resolution 787, which provides for the necessary measures, including military, to be taken to ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance.

6. The European Council fully supports the action taken in the Adriatic by WEU and NATO to enforce United Nations sanctions and the arms embargo. The Community and its member States will take further steps to assist in tightening sanctions on the Danube and urge the riparian States to play their full part. The European Council calls for the rapid despatch of observers to the border between Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In view of the many violations of United Nations Security Council resolution 786, the European Council believes the United Nations Security Council should examine the situation in the light of operative paragraph 6 of that resolution.

7. The autonomy of Kosovo within Serbia must be restored. The Serbian authorities must exercise restraint and the human rights of the inhabitants of Kosovo must be respected. The European Council is in favour of a United Nations presence in Kosovo. The European Council also reiterates its call upon the Albanian Government to continue to show the necessary restraint.

8. The European Council welcomes the decision by the co-Chairman to hold a meeting at ministerial level of the steering committee of the international conference on 16 December. The meeting should discuss the series of measures necessary in support of the co-Chairmen to intensify pressure on the parties to end the bloodshed and to negotiate seriously on a Bosnian constitution.

9. The European Council, which brings together the Heads of State or Government of countries which are profoundly peace-loving, will continue to give priority to political means in order to resolve the crisis in Yugoslavia. But, given the gravity of this tragic situation, it has no choice but to promote and participate in further initiatives which the international community may be obliged to undertake.

Annex II

[Original: French, English]

Declaration on the treatment of Muslim women in former Yugoslavia

1. The European Council is appalled by the systematic detention and rape of Muslim women. It strongly condemns these acts of unspeakable brutality, which form part of a deliberate strategy to terrorize the Muslim community in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in order to achieve the purpose of ethnic cleansing. Those responsible for these crimes against humanity will be held personally accountable and brought to justice.

2. The European Council demands that all detention camps and in particular camps for women should be immediately closed. Free and secure access must be given to humanitarian organizations so that all those detained in the camps can be assisted.

3. The Community and its member States will consider favourably what further help could be given to the victims.

4. The European Council has decided on the rapid despatch of a delegation of all member States, headed by Dame Anne Warburton, to investigate in all areas on behalf of the Community and its member States the facts received until now and to report urgently to the Foreign Ministers. This delegation must be allowed free and secure access to the places of detention in question. The European Council calls upon the United Nations to adopt measures to support this mission.

Annex III

[Original: French, English]

Declaration on the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia

1. The European Council examined its policy on recognition of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia in the context of the Lisbon Declaration and in the light of the report by the Presidency's Special Representative. It invites Foreign Ministers to remain seized of this question.

2. The European Council welcomes United Nations Security Council resolution 795 authorizing the United Nations Secretary-General to establish an UNPROFOR presence in the republic.

3. The European Council recalls its Declaration at Birmingham on the need to prevent this republic from bearing the unintended consequences of United Nations sanctions. In this context the European Council underlines the importance of providing access to funding from the international financial institutions and of the regular and properly monitored supply of oil.

4. The European Council agrees that in addition the Community should make available to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia a substantial package of economic assistance. It welcomed the intention of the Commission to earmark 50 million European currency units of humanitarian and technical assistance to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Member States also agree to provide a matching amount from their own resources.